ter. He saw that there must be in such an event a serious, blocdy, and doubtful contest; and he believed, and rightly too, that such a contest would inaugurate a civil war. Hence he did not ask for reinforcements or supplies.[1] He himself did not believe that a war was necessary, or even advisable on any ground, nor did he think that it would succeed in restoring the Union.[2] He undoubtedly expected that the Government would ultimately view the matter in this light, and would withdraw his command from Fort Sumter. If it required him to remain, he was prepared to do his duty and to defend his post. But he considered it unjustifiable to incur a conflict of arms in the attempt to hold on to Fort Sumter.[3] Hence he refrained from asking

[1] I W. R., 159 ; Anderson to Cooper, Jan. 30, 1861. /£., 163 ; same to same, Feb. 5, 1861.

[2] I W. R., 294; Anderson to Thomas, April 8, 1861. Same to same, same date.

[3] That Anderson did not ask for reinforcements because he was unwilling to incur the responsibility of taking a step which would be followed immediately by active hostilities on the part of South Carolina, and that he thought up to the very last that he had in this way prevented the beginning of the civil war, is stated by him in a letter to a lady, written just before the attack on the fort in April, 1861 :

" Had I demanded reinforcements while Mr. Holt was in the War Department, -I know that he would have despatched them at all hazards. I did not ask them, because I knew that, the moment it should be known here that additional troops were coming, they would assault me, and thus inaugurate civil war. My policy, feeling—thanks be to God ! —secure for the present in my stronghold, was to keep still, to preserve

peace, to give time for the quieting of the excitement, which was at one time very high throughout this region, in the hope of avoiding bloodshed. There is now a prospect that this hope will be realized, that the separation, which has been inevitable for months, will be consummated without the shedding of one drop of blood. . . . A hope may be indulged, that our errant sisters, thus leaving us as friends, may at some future time be won back by conciliation and justice."—Crawford, 290, 291.